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Appl. No. 10/680,648

Atty. Docket No. 30207US01

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A ladder stand-off for use with a ladder having a pair of laterally spaced side rails defining a ladder width, said ladder stand-off comprising:

a beam having first and second ends;

a first arm fixedly connected at a first end thereof to said beam at a first point located between said first and second beam ends;

a second arm fixedly connected at a first end thereof to said beam at a second point located between said first and second beam ends, said second point being spaced from said first point a predetermined distance, wherein said first and second arms extend outward from said beam so as to be angularly divergent with respect to each other and define an unobstructed space therebetween;

a contact element pivotally connected to a second end of each of said first and second arms, wherein each contact element pivots substantially horizontally; ~~and~~

whereby said ladder stand-off can be used with a variety of surfaces including outside corners defining an angle of about 90 degrees; and

means for detachably securing said beam to said ladder.

Claim 2 (original). The ladder stand-off of claim 1 wherein said beam is straight.

Claim 3 (cancelled).

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Claim 4 (previously presented). The ladder stand-off of claim 1 wherein each contact element comprises an L-shaped member having first and second sections, said first section being pivotally connected to said second end.

Claim 5 (previously presented). The ladder stand-off of claim 1 wherein each contact element comprises a U-shaped member having two side legs joined by a central web, said side legs straddling said second end.

Claim 6 (previously presented). The ladder stand-off of claim 1 wherein said second end of each arm includes a pair of flanges and each contact element is positioned between a corresponding pair of said flanges.

Claim 7 (cancelled).

Claim 8 (previously presented). The ladder stand-off of claim 1 wherein said second ends of said first and second arms are spaced apart a distance that is less than the length of said beam.

Claim 9 (cancelled).

Claim 10 (currently amended). A ladder stand-off for use with a ladder having a pair of laterally spaced side rails defining a ladder width, said ladder stand-off comprising:

a beam having first and second ends;

a first arm fixedly connected at a first end thereof to said beam at a first point located between said first and second beam ends;

a second arm fixedly connected at a first end thereof to said beam at a second point located between said first and second beam ends, said second point being spaced from said first point a predetermined distance, wherein said first and second arms extend outward from said beam;

a contact element pivotally connected to a second end of each of said first and second arms, wherein each contact element pivots substantially horizontally; and

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whereby said ladder stand-off can be used with a variety of surfaces including outside corners defining an angle of about 90 degrees; and
means for detachably securing said beam to said ladder.

Claim 11 (original). The ladder stand-off of claim 10 wherein said beam is straight.

Claim 12 (original). The ladder stand-off of claim 10 wherein each contact element comprises an L-shaped member having first and second sections, said first section being pivotally connected to said second end.

Claim 13 (original). The ladder stand-off of claim 10 wherein each contact element comprises a U-shaped member having two side legs joined by a central web, said side legs straddling said second end.

Claim 14 (original). The ladder stand-off of claim 10 wherein said second end of each arm includes a pair of flanges and each contact element is positioned between a corresponding pair of said flanges.

Claim 15 (cancelled).

Claim 16 (original). The ladder stand-off of claim 10 wherein said second ends of said first and second arms are spaced apart a distance that is less than the length of said beam.

Claim 17 (cancelled).

Claim 18 (cancelled).

Claim 19 (previously presented). The ladder stand-off of claim 10 wherein said first and second arms define an angle therebetween that is less than 90 degrees.

Claim 20 (previously presented). The ladder stand-off of claim 1 wherein said beam, said first arm and said second arm comprise square tubing.

Claim 21 (previously presented). The ladder stand-off of claim 10 wherein said beam, said first arm and said second arm comprise square tubing.

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